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July 15, 2005

BY HAND DELIVERY

Edward D. Ryan
Campaign Finance Analyst
Reports Analysis Division
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

Re: Letter dated June 15, 2005, regarding March Monthly Report (2/1/04-2/29/04)

Dear Mr. Ryan:

On behalf my client, the Republican Party of Louisiana ("the Party"), I am writing in response to the Commission's letter dated June 15, 2005, regarding the Party's March Monthly Report (2/1/04-2/29/04).

First, the Commission requested clarification of whether disbursements listed on Schedule B were payments for public communications that qualified as expenditures, exempt party activities, or federal election activities. "Public communications" include messages in a broadcast, cable or satellite communication; newspaper; magazine; outdoor advertising facility; mass mailing or telephone bank to the general public; or any other form of general public political advertising. See 2 U.S.C. § 431(22); 11 C.F.R. § 100.26. They do not include communications over the Internet. See 2 U.S.C. § 431(22); 11 C.F.R. § 100.26.

To list a public communication payment properly on a Federal Election Commission disclosure form, a State party committee must analyze the content of the message. A disbursement for a public communication that refers to a clearly identified candidate for federal office and that promotes, supports, attacks, or opposes any federal candidate constitutes a "federal election activity." See 2 U.S.C. § 431(20)(A)(iii); 11 C.F.R. § 100.24(b)(3). The payment must be listed on Schedule B supporting Line 30(b). See 2 U.S.C. § 431(20); 11 C.F.R. § 100.24; F.E.C. Instructions for Form 3X (Dec. 2004).

Alternatively, payment for a public communication containing express advocacy – a message that advocates the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate – must be disclosed as an independent expenditure on Schedule E supporting Line 24. *See* 2 U.S.C. § 431(17)(A); 11 C.F.R. § 100.22(a); F.E.C. Instructions for Form 3X (Dec. 2004). Disbursements for certain party activities, however, such as the distribution of slate cards, the dissemination of campaign materials by volunteers, and “get-out-the-vote” drives for Presidential nominees, are exempt from the “expenditure” definition. *See* 11 C.F.R. §§ 100.140, 100.147, and 100.149. The payments may be reported as “federal operating expenditures” on Schedule B supporting line 21(b). *See* 11 C.F.R. §§ 100.140, 100.147, and 100.149; F.E.C. Instructions for Form 3X (Dec. 2004). *See also* Campaign Guide for Political Party Committees, at 38 (Aug. 2004). Finally, payments for coordinated party expenditures must be reported on Schedule F supporting Line 25. *See* 2 U.S.C. 431(17), 441a(a),(d); 11 C.F.R. 109.30; F.E.C. Instructions for Form 3X (Dec. 2004).

The Party disclosed the following disbursements on Line 21(b) of its March Monthly Report.

- A \$400 payment to Crescent Sound & Light, Inc. on February 3, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for a “Bush Rally at Sugar Bowl.” Because the disbursement qualified as a coordinated party expenditure in support of the Bush-Cheney Campaign, the Party has listed it on Line 25 of the amended March Monthly Report.
- A \$11,296 payment to Direct Mail Systems, Inc. on February 18, 2004. The purpose of the disbursement was for “Printing and Postage of 2004A.” The Party’s accompanying amendment explains that the purpose of this disbursement was for a “State Fundraising Solicitation.” Because the communication did not specifically identify a federal candidate, the Party properly disclosed the disbursement on Line 21(b) of the March Monthly Report.

Second, the Commission asked the Party to clarify whether it cashed a \$50,000 check by the Republican Party of Virginia. As a result of a clerical error, the Party accidentally attributed a \$50,000 transfer from the North Carolina Republican Executive Committee (“North Carolina Republican Party”) to the Republican Party of Virginia on its Amended 30 Day Post-General Report (11/16/02-12/27/02), which was filed on June 13, 2003. Although the Post-General Report listed the transfer from the North Carolina Republican Party, it also listed a duplicate \$50,000 transfer by the Republican Party of Virginia. The Party clarified the reporting discrepancy on the March Monthly Report, and will submit amendments reflecting accurate cash-on-hand balances for the relevant reporting periods.

Finally, the Commission requested that the Party revise its reporting of a \$20,000 receipt from the Republican Party of Texas. Pursuant to the Commission’s letter, the Party has amended the March Monthly Report by disclosing the receipt on Line 12.

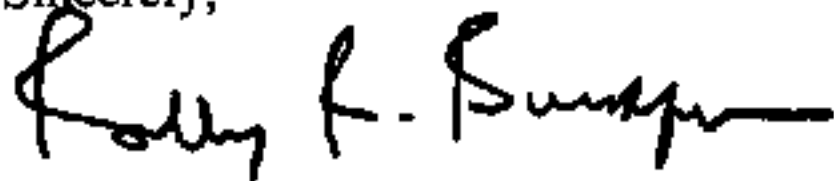
Edward D. Ryan

July 15, 2005

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If you have questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 756-8003.


Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bobby R. Burchfield". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bobby R. Burchfield

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Federal Election Commission
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